

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 L-03

MC-02 EB-11 OMB-01 AID-20 COME-00 IGA-02 ACDA-19

PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /126 W

----- 080141

R 260845Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9691

INFO CINCPAC CAMP H M SMITH HI

RUEKJC HXSECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 4555

NOFORN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652:HY

S

TAGS: MASS, SN

SUBJECT: F-4 AIRCRAFT FOR SINGAPORE

REF: A) STATE 230062 (NOTAL) B) SINGAPORE 4529

1. VISITING PRESIDENT OF LOCKHEED AIR SERVICES, THUM, INFORMED AMBASSADOR THAT DURING HIS CALL ON DEFENSE MINISTER GOH NOVEMBER 21 GOH ASKED WHETHER LOCKHEED COULD INFORMALLY DETERMINE SALES AVAILABILITY AND TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY OF ACQUISITION AND REFURBISHING OF ONE SQUADRON (16 A/C) OF USED RPT USED US OWNED F-4 AIRCRAFT.

2. COMMENT: PRINCIPAL REASON WHY GOS HAS DELAYED PRESSING ITS INTEREST IN ACQUIRING F-4'S HAS BEEN GOS PREOCCUPATION WITH IMPLEMENTATION A-4 PROGRAM WHICH THEY CONSIDER A STEPPING STONE TO SUPERSONICS. COST MAY HAVE BEEN ADDITIONAL FACTOR. NOW THAT A-4 PROGRAM IS WELL UNDER WAY, GOS APPEARS ONCE AGAIN TO BE ACTIVELY CONSIDER-  
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ING ACQUIRING F-4'S. GOS INTEREST IN OBTAINING USED

F-4'S APPEARS DESIGNED TO FURTHER CAPITALIZE ON HIGHER TECHNOLOGY ACQUISITION. SINCE GOS NOW AWARE THAT DIRECTED PROCUREMENT FOR LOCKHEED LIKELY TO TERMINATE AT END OF THIS FISCAL YEAR, F-4 REHABILITATION WILL ASSIST IN ADDITIONAL WORKLOAD FOR LASS. RECENT PROPOSAL TO EXPAND A-4 PROGRAM (REF B) AND GOH'S INQUIRY TO THUM ON F-4'S APPEAR IN PART DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE THIS PURPOSE.

3. DAO BELIEVES LOCKHEED FACILITY IN SINGAPORE WILL GRADUALLY DEVELOP THROUGH A-4 PROGRAM THE SKILLS REQUIRED TO HANDLE REHABILITATION OF USED F-4'S.

4. IF AIR FORCE DOES

NOT HAVE OR UNABLE TO SELL USED F-4'S TO GOS, BELIEVE GOS WILL SOON EXPRESS RENEWED INTEREST IN DIRECT ACQUISITION OF NEW F-4'S FROM MCDONNELL-DOUGLAS. FOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BEING ADVISED WHETHER AIR FORCE HAS AVAILABLE ANY USED F-4'S FOR SALE TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES AS WELL AS TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE. EMBASSY RECOGNIZES THAT ANY SALE OF F-4'S TO SINGAPORE WOULD, OF COURSE, BE SUBJECT TO SAME MIX OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS DISCUSSED IN PREVIOUS MESSAGES ON THIS SUBJECT.

5. GOS IS ANXIOUS TO DETERMINE A/C AVAILABILITY AND TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY OF THE PROGRAM BEFORE APPROACHING USG. EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS IS PRINCIPAL REASON FOR INDIRECT APPROACH THROUGH LOCKHEED. GOS MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN ANXIOUS TO AVOID RISK OF NEGATIVE USG RESPONSE AND POSSIBLY DECIDED TO TAKE SOME INFORMAL SOUNDINGS FIRST. A FURTHER CONSIDERATION IS ITS PREFERENCE TO WORK THROUGH LOCKHEED, IN WHICH IT SEEMS TO HAVE FULL CONFIDENCE, AND AVOID IF POSSIBLE BRINGING MCDONNELL-DOUGLAS INTO PICTURE. (GOS HAS GENERALLY NEGATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS MCDONNELL-DOUGLAS BECAUSE GOS THOUGHT IT EXHIBITED AN UNRESPONSIVE ATTITUDE DURING A-4B NEGOTIATIONS.)

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6. WE SEE NO PROBLEM IN LOCKHEED INQUIRING ABOUT POSSIBLE AVAILABILITY OF USED F-4'S, BUT WE THINK WE SHOULD INDICATE THAT MATTER CANNOT BE PURSUED BEYOND THAT IN ABSENCE OF AN OFFICIAL INDICATION TO USG OF INTEREST ON PART OF GOS.  
CRONK

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AEROSPACE INDUSTRY, AIRCRAFT SALES, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 NOV 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973SINGAP04555  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** DG ALTERED  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** SINGAPORE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19731113/aaaaajet.tel  
**Line Count:** 113  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** A) STATE 230062 (NOTAL) B) SINGAPORE  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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30 JUN 2005

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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** F-4 AIRCRAFT FOR SINGAPORE  
**TAGS:** MASS, SN, LOCKHEED AIR SERVICES  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005